



# ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

## **LUBBOCK DISTRICT OFFICE**

**U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

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**Release Date:** January 10, 2005

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**Release No:** LUB-05-24

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### ***WEST TEXAS HEARING OFFERS SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS EXCESSIVE FEDERAL REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT***

<b>WHO:</b>	SBA National Ombudsman Michael L. Barrera, members of the Regional Regulatory Fairness Board for Region VI from Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, and representatives of federal regulatory agencies will hear concerns, comments and complaints about federal regulatory enforcement and compliance. Small business owners, representatives of community organizations and trade associations, and community and business leaders are invited to testify about compliance and enforcement of federal regulations by government regulators.
<b>WHAT:</b>	To create a more cooperative regulatory environment among federal agencies and small businesses, the U.S. Congress has directed the SBA and the national ombudsman to hold Regulatory Fairness (RegFair) hearings. Concerns and complaints aired at this hearing will be directed to the appropriate federal regulatory agency. Testimony gathered at RegFair Hearings about federal regulatory activity and comments, concerns and complaints filed with the national ombudsman are reported to Congress each year.
<b>WHEN:</b>	January 31, 2005 8:30 a.m. to 12 Noon
<b>WHERE:</b>	Texas Tech University Animal & Food Sciences Building, Room #101 Lubbock, Texas 79401 (Located on the Southwest Corner of Indiana Blvd. and Brownfield Highway)
<b>MEDIA:</b>	The hearing is open to the press and the public. In addition, Ombudsman Barrera will be available for interviews at 12:10 p.m. January 31, 2005.

**Anyone desiring confidentiality may request that his or her name not be released and may submit written testimony in lieu of a public appearance at the hearing.**

Any small business concerned about excessive enforcement of federal regulations can contact their local SBA district office or the National Ombudsman at 888-REG-FAIR (888-734-3247) or go to the

National Ombudsman Web site at [www.sba.gov/ombudsman](http://www.sba.gov/ombudsman). Phone numbers for the nearest SBA district office are available by calling the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800-U ASK SBA.